

**SECRET****OLD RECORD COPY***State*OLC 78-0357/18  
31 May 1978

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senior Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
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1. [ ] I called Doris Meissner, Deputy to the Associate Attorney General Michael Egan, of the Department of Justice, and Shep Lohman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, and cleared the Agency's background briefing on the refugee situation in Vietnam requested today by Jim Cline, Staff Director, for the House Judiciary Committee Members Joshua Eilberg (D., Pa.), Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R., N.Y.) and Robert McClory (R., Ill.) to be held this afternoon. The briefing was requested for background information to consider the Attorney General's proposal to parole 25,000 additional refugees from Vietnam.  
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2. [ ] Meissner and Lohman recognized that the Agency would have to provide such a briefing particularly in view of the strong press play to the ethnic Chinese problem in Vietnam over last weekend. I explained the thrust of the briefing and they felt they could handle any of the questions which the Members might raise when they meet with them tomorrow morning. They asked that I pass on to them anything significant which the Members might raise during the briefing to prepare them for tomorrow's meeting. Meissner pointed out that Eilberg, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law, and Chairman James O. Eastland (D., Miss.), Senate Judiciary Committee, have been opposed to a large entry of Vietnamese refugees into the United States. For this reason, the Administration is submitting a package deal to the Congress to include refugees from Vietnam, Latin America, and Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union.  
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3. [ ] Ms. Meissner said the refugee situation in Vietnam would be covered by Lohman. She said that though the Attorney General does have the ultimate authority to parole refugees, he does consult with the Judiciary Committee before making any final decisions. In this instance, the additional 25,000 refugees would be drawn from those now in refugee camps in Southeast Asia. She added that the Administration undoubtedly would be opposed to accepting large numbers of ethnic Chinese who choose to leave Vietnam due to the nationalization of industries ordered in March.  
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